

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTIETH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
CAHABA VALLEY ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH

Ashville Baptist Church, Ashville, Ala.,

September 11th, 1897.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

J. S. E. Robinson Moderator.
N. A. Hood Clerk.
J. M. Adkins Treasurer.

The next session of this Association will be held with New Prospect Church, which is situated on the East & West Railroad, about three miles from Fair View, and about four miles from Coal City. On Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 1898, at 10 o'clock a. m.

ASHVILLE, ALA.,
THE ACME PRINTING COMPANY,
1897.

CAHABA VALLEY ASSOCIATION.

MINUTES.

Ashville, Ala., Sept. 11th, 1897.

The messengers sent by the various churches to compose the 30th annual session of the Cahaba Valley Association met this day with Ashville church, Ashville, Ala., at 10 a. m. After reading the 122nd Psalm, and the 17th chapter of the Gospel of John, prayer was offered by Rev. P. S. Montgomery, of the Birmingham Association.

Letters from the churches were called for and read by Rev. P. S. Montgomery, J. B. Shurbet and E. B. Moore. It was found that the following churches were represented by the following named brethren:

- Ashville—Rev. J. A. Glenn, Rev. J. S. E. Robinson, Rev. N. A. Hood, J. W. Inzer, J. R. Neely, E. B. Moore, A. A. Hodges and L. M. Cox.
- Bethany—H. W. McBrayer, R. B. Cash and J. M. Jordan.
- Bethel—J. K. Allison, T. D. Courson, L. V. B. Hawkins and J. M. Adkins.
- Beulah—Robt. Byers, Wm. Jarrett, Robt. Stewart and James Jarrett.
- Cedar Grove—Not represented.
- Cook Springs—L. Cooke, Rev. W. P. Lovell, J. T. Reeves and J. P. Car-raker.
- Cool Springs—J. W. Ramsey and L. D. Galbreath.
- Cane Creek—G. W. Rowe and Mark Moore.
- Eden (Jefferson)—Rev. B. F. White.
- Friendship—J. B. Holms, H. N. Hess, R. B. Reece, L. J. Steed, F. M. Mize and J. R. Hess.
- Gum Springs—Rev. A. P. Cobb and Rev. J. E. Stevenson,
- Greensport—L. M. Crump
- Hopewell—Rev. S. J. Hare, Rev. W. A. Dorsett, Rev. G. W. Lovell, J. A. Thompson and J. P. Dill.
- Mt. Pisgah—J. R. Davis, J. B. Shurbett and L. Ragland.
- Mt. Pleasant—B. F. Drummond.
- Mt. Castle—F. M. Higginbotham.
- New Hope (St. Clair)—H. B. Guy, J. M. Garrett, N. A. Butterworth and E. M. Truett.
- New Prospect—James Barber, F. M. Milam, P. E. Wyatt and Rev. J. D. Morgan.
- New Hope (Jefferson)—S. L. Hail.
- New Lebanon—J. F. Allison.
- Providence—J. Wood, R. A. Green and N. L. Davis.
- Pleasant Grove (Shelby)—Rev. W. I. Brasher and D. A. Whitfield.
- Pleasant Grove (St. Clair)—Rev. C. J. Pike, Joe Yarbrough, T. J. Mitchell and F. P. Mitchell.
- Pine Forest—S. B. Crow and James McCrory.
- Pleasant Cite—Not represented.
- Rock Springs—J. W. Inzer, H. L. McGill and G. T. Allison.

Reeves Grove—W. M. Tullis, J. W. Alman, T. N. Montgomery and A. B. C. Goode.

Sand Ridge—R. Isbell.

Sulphur Springs—Rev. J. C. Harris, W. C. Fulmer and W. M. Minyard.

Shilo—Elias Patterson.

Pleasant Ridge—J. T. Davis.

Trinity—Not represented.

Union Springs—W. R. Courson, P. F. Hawkins. Rev. J. W. Lawley and T. P. Hawkins.

Union—Rev. J. W. Perry.

Coal Cty—A. R. Wyatt.

After the reading of the letters, a short recess was had after which the Introductory sermon was preached by Rev. N. A. Hood.

Adjourned one hour for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Upon reassembling prayer was led by J. M. Barber, after which the regular order of business was taken up and the Association proceeded to the election of officers for the next associational year, Rev. J. S. E. Robinson was elected Moderator, N. A. Hood, Clerk, and J. M. Adkins, Treasurer.

On motion of J. A. Glenn, the order of business as adopted by the Association last year was adopted by this body. Petitionary letters being called for, Pleasant Ridge of Shelby county presented itself for membership. The church was received into full fellowship and its messengers took seats as members of this body.

On motion of N. A. Hood, the regular order of business was suspended and a committee consisting of the pastor of Ashville church, its deacons, J. A. Thompson and James McCrory, was appointed on devotional exercises.

Upon a call for correspondents, Rev. P. S. Montgomery of the Birmingham Association responded and was given a seat, as a visitor, in this body.

Official visitors present: W. C. Bledsoe, corresponding secretary State Mission Board; M. M. Wood, financial agent of Howard College; A. E. Burns, State Evangelist.

Correspondents to other associations:

Birmingham—I. W. Inzer, N. A. Hood, J. W. Lawley, J. T. Davis, W. P. Lovell and A. G. Nunnally.

Etowah—G. W. Lovell.

Shelby—W. I. Brasher, J. T. Davis.

Sulphur Springs—J. W. Lawley.

The Moderator announced the following committees to report at the present session of this Association:

Committee on finance—J. R. Neely, J. M. Adkins and J. B. Shurbert.

Committee on nominations—Jas. Barber, J. A. Thompson and E. B. Moore.

Report of Committee on Devotions: Rev. W. C. Bledsoe to preach at this place tonight at 7-30, Rev. J. W. Lawley to preach at Bradfords school house tonight at 7-30, Rev. S. J. Pike to preach missionary sermon Sunday at 11 a. m. as previously appointed, Rev. W. P. Lovell to preach Sunday at 11 a. m. at M. E. church, Rev.

A. E. Burns to preach Sunday at 2-30 p. m. at this place.

The report on State Missions being called for, Rev. N. A. Hood read the following:

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

In the absence of statistics we are unable to report as to the work of the denomination so far as it pertains to state missions. In a letter from Brother Bledsoe, missionary secretary, we note that the collections for State missions to Sept. 1st. '97 was \$975.98 less than they were for the year ending Sept. 1st. '96. This shows a decided falling off of contributions upon the part of the churches; and as all our mission interests are so closely connected, it is reasonable to conclude that there is a shortage in all our denominational enterprises. The causes of such shortage are unknown to us, but we are led to conclude that it must be largely due to the scarcity of money, and to some extent a want of interest upon the part of our people; however, we are of the opinion that progress has been made by our people by way of supporting our denominational enterprises within the bounds of our Association. A greater missionary spirit seems to possess our people now than heretofore, and when the work of this body shall have ended, we feel that all will be gratified with the results. Much has already been accomplished by the denomination through state missions, and much more remains to be done, and in a sense the state mission work is the basis of all missions. While we may not be in hearty sympathy with all of the methods of the denomination, yet we are Baptists, and the work is our work; it is our cause and we should sustain it, and to refuse or even fail to do so is hurtful to our denomination. (Without in any way antagonizing, the Board, are of the opinion that the policy of employing district Evangelists, as is now being done is, to say the least, in no way beneficial to the furtherance of missions; and, inasmuch as it should be the policy of the Board to voice the sentiment of the Churches upon all matters pertaining to our denominational interest, we recommend to this body that the sentiment of the same be taken and the result be made known to the Board of missions.) We are of the opinion that the denomination must look to the Pastors of the Churches to work up the needed interest in missions. The denomination has a right to expect the co-operation of all Pastors in supporting and furthering its enterprises, and the Pastors in our bounds are urged to help the denomination by word and deed in this much needed work. We further recommend the continuance of the apportionment plan now in vogue, and suggest to the Churches that the amount requested is small and reasonable, and we urge the payment of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

N. A. Hood, Chairman.

After the reading of the report on State Missions, a motion was made to have all the reports on missions read and discussed at one time. Motion carried. The report on Foreign Missions being called for, E. B. Moore read the following:

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We the committee to which was referred the subject of Foreign Missions submit the following:

Not having such statistics as we should like to have had, we are unable to give as full a report of the work of the denomination as we would like to do. We are gratified to note a growth of interest in missionary work within the bounds of our association, but, as the spread of the gospel is one of the underlying principles of our doctrines, we recommend that the pastors of the various churches urge the people under their charge to contribute more freely to our missionary enterprises than they have done heretofore, and that they endeavor to stir up more interest in every department of the missionary work. The Southern Baptist Convention now has in for-

eign fields about 120 missionaries besides native helpers. These are accomplishing a grand work for Christ in Japan, China, Mexico, Brazil, Italy and Africa. A considerable sum is required to support these persons and it is our duty to contribute, at least, our prorata part of the amount required. When the Southern Baptist Convention convened last, the indebtedness of the Foreign Mission Board was \$13,000. The Baptists of this state agreed to pay their prorata part of such indebtedness. We therefore urge the people of this association to come forth and help the Board out of its troubles. Besides being in debt the Board has other needs out of the usual order. There are many persons throughout our state who would give their lives to the work of their Master, but the Board has not the means with which to send them. The minutes of this association for the year 1896 shows the membership of the churches composing the association to have been at that time 2166. If each one of those persons would give only the small amount of one penny per week, they would send up to the Board each year the sum of \$1126.32, which is more than three times the amount asked for by the Board. Or if they would give the small sum of 16cts. per annum they would raise the amount required. How easy it would be, if all would co-operate, to raise the amount asked by the Board.

We recommend to the people the Foreign Mission Journal, a periodical published by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The cost is only 35 cents per year. By reading this we may know what Baptists are doing on foreign fields.

Respectfully submitted,

E. B. MOORE, Chairman.

The report on Home Missions not being ready, after discussion by N. A. Hood, E. B. Moore, W. C. Bledsoe and A. E. Burns, the further discussion of missions was deferred till Monday.

On motion of J. W. Inzer the discussion of the report on Sunday schools was set for Sunday at 9.00 a. m. and all Sunday schools of the town were invited to attend.

The Association adjourned to meet Sunday morning at 9.00 a. m. Prayer by Rev. W. C. Bledsoe

SUNDAY.

The Association was called to order at 9.00 a. m. by the Moderator. After the reading of the 21st. chapter of John, prayer was offered by Rev. M. M. Wood.

No report on Sabbath Schools was made, the chairman of the committee on Sabbath Schools being absent. In the absence of a report on Sunday Schools, the report on Sunday Schools as adopted by the Association at its session of 1896 was read and after discussion by B. F. White, J. W. Lawley, M. M. Wood, J. W. Inzer, and P. S. Montgomery; the report was adopted by this body.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

It may be noticed from the letters from the churches to the association, that only a small percentage of the churches composing this association maintain regular Sunday School. This is not as it should be. Every church should by all means maintain a regular Sunday School. The churches have opportunities to train and indoctrinate the young people in the Sunday School, which they cannot afford to let pass unimproved. It is a deplorable fact that the older members of the church take but little interest in this work. As a rule, the young Christians readily become interested, and with the proper encouragement and interest by the older mem-

bers, flourishing Sunday Schools could be maintained in all the churches. Young christians naturally look upon their elders as leaders in church work. Then let them arise to the responsibility that rests upon them and the opportunity that they have for doing service in the Master's name. No church can hope to prosper to that degree in this age that is to be desired without sustaining a well regulated Sabbath School. Some of our churches seem to be satisfied with Sabbath Schools through the summer months. This is wrong, for we know and it has been demonstrated by some of our churches that Sabbath Schools can be kept alive permanently. We recommend to the pastors of our churches to see that Sabbath Schools are organized in every church of the Cahaba Valley Association, and they use the Southern Baptist Convention series of lesson papers,

Respectfully submitted

J. C. Sheffield.

The Missionary Sermon was preached from Luke 10-1, by Rev. C. J. Pike, after which the committee on devotions made the following report: Rev. M. M. Wood to preach at this place to-night at 7:30, Rev. W. I. Brasher to preach at Bradfords school-house at 7:30, Rev. J. W. Lawley to preach at Dill's school-house at 7:30. Adjourned one hour for dinner. In accordance with the appointment of the committee on devotions, Rev. A. E. Burns preached at 2:30 from Revelations 11-15.

The Association adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8.00 A. M.

MONDAY.

The Association met Monday morning at 8:00 A. M. Prayer was offered by Rev W. P. Lovell.

The following delegates were appointed to the State Convention: C. J. Pike, J. W. Lawley, N. A. Hood, W. P. Lovell, J. S. E. Robinson, I. W. Inzer, J. A. Glenn, L. Cooke, S. J. Hare, Geo. W. Lovell, E. B. Moore, J. M. Adkins, Jno. Perry, Allen Greene, W. I. Brasher, L. M. Cox, and J. M. Garret.

The roll of messengers was called and the absentees were marked and on motion their names were stricken from the minutes.

M. M. Wood, Financial Agent of Howard College, was accorded the floor to address the Association on the subject of denominational education and in the interest of Howard College. The following amounts were promised by the churches to be raised for the support of W. R. Hood in Howard College: Ashville Church \$50.00, Bethel, 1.00 cash, Eden (Jefferson)-\$2.00, Friendship \$3.00, J. M. McCrory,-\$1.00 cash, Gum Springs-\$2.00, Mt. Pleasant,-\$3.00, New Hope (St. Clair)-\$4.00, New Hope (Jefferson) \$1.00, Cool Springs-\$2.50, Bethany-\$1.50, Providence-\$2.00, Pleasant Grove (St. Clair) \$3.00, Rock Springs \$2.00, Reeves Grove-\$3.00, Sulphur Springs-\$1.50, Union Springs-\$2.00, Coal City-\$2.00.

The following amounts were promised by the churches to be raised for the support of W. A. Dorsett in St. Clair College at Ashville: Hopewell-\$10.00, Ashville-(by J. W. Inzer) \$5.00, Ashville-(J. A. Glenn) \$5.00, Reeves Grove-\$1.50, Bethel-\$2.00, Reck Springs-\$1.00, Gum Springs-\$2.00, Friendship-\$3.00, J. A. Embry-\$1.00 cash, J. L. North,-\$.50 cash, B. F. White-\$.50 cash, Joe Wood-\$.50

cash, R. A. Greene, \$.50 cash, W. M. Tullis-.30 cash, F. M. Milam-.25 cash, S. L. Hail-.25 cash, H. B. Guy, -\$.1.00 cash, J. P. Carret, -.25 cash, W. W. Adkins-.1.00, J. W. Lawley-.1.00, N. A. Hood-one month board, W. I. Davis-one month board, E. J. Robinson-one month board, Mrs. J. R. Neely-one month board, J. A. Glenn & R. T. Nunnelly-one month board.

The report on education being called for, C. J. Pike read the following:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Within the past few years, rapid strides have been made by our people in the way of building up the cause of education. There has been improvement all along the line-school houses have been improved, better and higher grade teachers have been employed, text-books better adapted to the needs of the children have been introduced, and better attendance has been secured by the teachers. We not only find greater interest among the teachers and patrons of schools; but, we are gratified to find it among the pupils in school. We find more young men "working a while, and going to school a while" than ever before. We feel that the time has come, when, with a little more interest being manifested upon the part of those who are interested in education, the whole country can be made to feel an interest in the cause. We are gratified to find that, within the past few years, a greater spirit of morality and uprightness has found its way into our schools. We find our denominational schools in a flourishing condition. These schools are our schools, under our control and dependent upon us for support. Let us send our boys and girls to them and help them in every way possible. We regret to note that some of our people do not patronize these institutions as they should do. They send their boys and girls to other colleges, when our colleges are equally as good if not better institutions. Besides being as good as other institutions in literary lines, our schools have moral and religious influences around them that other schools do not possess.

We urge upon our people the importance of arousing themselves to greater interest in education: Education is something more than knowledge acquired. An educated mind is not only an intelligent mind, it is a mind whose faculties are developed. For this reason we urge upon our people the importance of educating their children as it not only prepares the mind for the better reception of the Gospel, but it develops their minds and enables them to do better reasoning and meditating upon the precious truths found therein.

Respectfully submitted,
C. J. Pike, Chairman.

The report on ministerial education was also called for and read by J. A. Inzer, as follows:

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

To an intelligent and unprejudiced mind it is unnecessary to recite the benefits of an education, it exercises, develops and disciplines the mind, but the subject of ministerial education is one of burning importance, it deserves and demands the serious and thoughtful consideration of the Baptist denomination. The people generally are becoming educated, the ministry must keep abreast of the times. A minister stands in the capacity of teacher and leader. As a teacher he must be able to impart information; as a leader he must be familiar with the use of the Christian soldier's weapon, the gospel of Christ. A truly and thoroughly educated ministry, means a more useful and more powerful ministry. It is sad to state that a large per cent of our denomination do not fully appreciate the benefits of an educated ministry, and our denominational schools have not received the support to which they were entitled, yet great progress has been made

within the last few years. The ministerial students at Howard College and The Southern Baptist Seminary have been greatly aided, and encouraged by the denomination, but the denomination should become more interested and enthused upon this all important subject. The session of 1896-97 at Howard College showed an enrollment of 32 ministerial students, an increase of 2 over the previous session, with bright prospects for the ensuing session, and the great heart of the denomination who has fostered these institutions is in sympathy with the work, but more means and greater efforts should be expended and good and lasting results will be sure to follow.

Respectfully submitted,
JNO. A. INZER, Chairman.

After discussion by E. B. Moore, J. D. Morgan, J. C. Harris, C. J. Pike and others, both reports were adopted.

On motion of J. W. Inzer the regular order of business was suspended and the Finance committee made the following report:

We your committee on Finance submit the following report:

Received for Minutes.....	\$30.96
“ “ Missions-Sunday's collection.....	24.34
“ “ State Missions.....	4.65
“ “ Home “.....	1.65
“ “ Foreign “.....	7.90
“ “ Orphan's Home.....	2.88
“ “ Missions by receipts.....	45.14
“ “ Ministerial Education by receipts.....	10.00
“ “ Orphan's Home by receipts.....	3.07
“ “ Missions in general cash.....	52.63
“ “ by N. A. Hood.....	5.00

Total amount received in all.....	188.17
“ “ “ “ cash.....	131.96

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. SHURBETT, J. R. NEELY, J. M. ADKINS, Com. on Finance.

P. S. After offering the above, we find that by public collection \$2.00 in cash for the education of W. R. Hood and \$5.00 in cash for the education of W. A. Dorsett has been paid in.

The committee on nominations made the following report:

We your committee on nominations submit the following:

We nominate New Prospect church as the place to hold the next session of this Association, and Saturday before the second Sunday in Sept. 1898, as the time of holding the same. We nominate Eld. J. W. Lawley to preach the introductory sermon, J. E. Stevenson, alternate; Eld. J. A. Glenn to preach the missionary sermon, J. C. Harris, alternate; Eld. J. S. E. Robinson as delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention, N. A. Hood, alternate.

JAS. BARBER, J. A. THOMPSON AND E. B. MOORE, Com.

J C Harris moved to amend by inserting the name of Mt. Pleasant instead of New Prospect. The motion was lost and the report was adopted as offered.

The subject of missions being taken up again, the report on Home Missions was read by Rev. W. P. Lovell, as follows:

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

We find they had in the field for the last year, 372 missionaries; weeks of labor 11,075; churches and stations 1,963; sermons and addresses 48,508;

prayer-meetings 11-237; religious visits 62,175; baptisms 4,709; received by letters 4,746; total additions 9,455; churches constituted 139; houses of worship built 57; houses of worship improved 129; amount expended on houses of worship \$52,040; Sunday Schools organized 313; teachers and pupils 10,725; bibles and testaments distributed 2,837; tracts distributed, pages 645,340.

They did a grand work, but one of the greatest difficulties in the way of the work is, the people do not realize the great needs of our field.

It requires no argument or even thought to convince people interested in missions, that there is destitution in China, India, or Africa. They are so accustomed to religious privileges, that they cannot realize there is any destitution in this favored "south land" of ours. But it is a startling fact that as all are born without knowledge of the truth, if evangelistic efforts should cease, America would become as much a pagan country as China in a single generation.

It is again a startling fact that notwithstanding all that has been done by our churches and mission boards in the last 50 years, and the great success that has attended their efforts. Though Baptists have increased from 450,000 to 2,600,000 in the South, there are more unregenerated persons within the limits of our home mission field than there were 50 years ago.

These we must give the gospel or they will probably never receive it.

Now as to Cuba. All eyes of the nations are fixed on Cuba, a mighty struggle for liberty is going on there. The result of which will settle her religious as well as political destiny.

If Cuba is successful, it will bring to the Baptists of this southern land an opportunity and a responsibility such as has never been theirs before nor has God ever given to any other people. Our Baptist people are the only protestant organization on the Island. Every door will be opened to us, every influence will be in our favor, and with proper exertion, by the Divine blessing we can there win Cuba to Christ in less time than it will require Cuba to gain her independence.

A nation may be born in a day,
When the opportunity comes
There should be no delay.

The Home Mission board under whose direction it must be made, must be ready to forward the men and the means to every part of Cuba without delay. What a shame it will be, if, when the time comes our home mission board should be found so hampered by existing obligations and lack of funds as to paralyze its efforts, and some other mission organization should step in and take our crown. Since we have it in such easy reach, we should be up and doing, have all things in readiness to act at a moments warning.

What the average missionary does: He preaches to five congregations and averages two sermons a week every year. He attends forty prayer meetings; baptises 17 believers and receives 15 by letter; organizes one sunday school, and every 3rd year he organizes two, into which he gathers forty pupils and teachers; he makes 160 religious visits. He Constitutes one church every two years, and builds a house of worship every 3rd year, which costs with lot \$900; he gives away six bibles and testaments, and 3,000 tracts. He costs the denomination \$300 per annum. The house of worship every 3rd year adds to the wealth of the denomination a sum equal to his entire support.

Respectfully submitted,

LA FAYETTE COOKE, Chairman.

The several reports on missions were adopted.

The regular order of business was suspended and a motion was made directing the treasurer to turn over all money for missions and the Orphan's Home to brother A. E. Burns representing the State Mission Board.

The report on Temperance was read by J. C. Harris, and, after

being discussed by J. C. Harris, N. A. Hood; J. A. Glenn, C. J. Pike and J. K. Allison, it was adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Temperance is enjoined upon us by the authority of God's word. We are commanded to add to knowledge, temperance, and it is as essential to righteousness to be temperate as it is to have faith, virtue or knowledge. We can be, and we are sorry to say are, intemperate in many ways. We can talk too much in certain ways and thereby hurt ourselves and others. We have untold troubles in our hearts and in our churches and communities because of the tongue. "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren these things ought not so to be." James 3-10. We may also be intemperate in eating. Some people have been, and are now, eating themselves to death. "The drunkard and the glutton alike shall come to poverty." Proverbs 23-21. In the third place, we would call your attention to hurtful influences; in our land today, of the intemperance of dress. It is our opinion it has brought and is yet bringing many people to want and shame. In many places, no doubt, intemperance in dress has turned many poor people away from our houses of worship. Brethren, while it is right that we have decent dress for ourselves and families, it is wrong for us to even try to keep up with all the fashions. In the fourth place, intemperance in the use of tobacco is resulting in great harm to us in more ways than one, it is bringing disease and death to many people, it is wasting money that might be put to a good use. Some brethren, no doubt, give dollars for tobacco who do not give a cent for missions. As touching whiskies, we cannot recommend a temperate use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, but would insist on total abstinence. Touch not, taste not, handle not. Not only should we abstain from the use of it as a beverage, but we should do all in our power to prevent the making and selling of it in our country. We here give as our individual opinion and conviction that we as Baptists owe it to our God and to our country to vote to prohibit the manufacturing and sale of intoxicating liquors in this land of ours.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. HARRIS, Chairman.

The following standing committees were appointed to report at the next session:

LIST OF STANDING COMMITTEES TO REPORT AT NEXT SESSION.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

J. A. Embry, A. A. Hodges, J. M. Alman, J. R. Neely.

STATE MISSIONS.

J. C. Harris, J. K. Allison, J. M. Adkins, T. D. Courson.

HOME MISSIONS.

S. J. Hare, G. W. Lovell, J. A. Thompson, O. A. Hood.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

J. A. Glenn, J. W. Inzer, R. T. Nunnally, M. M. Smith.

EDUCATION.

E. B. Moore, J. C. Sheffield, J. W. Ramsey.

TEMPERANCE.

N. A. Hood, W. P. Lovell, J. W. Perry, J. C. Bice, W. A. Watson, Jas. Bowlin, A. P. Cobb.

SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

J. W. Inzer, H. T. Hess, J. E. Stevenson, H. W. McBrayer.

RELIGION AND ITS WANTS.

C. J. Pike, Paul Castleberry, H. B. Guy, W. I. Brasher, L. Cooke.

DOCUMENTS.

J. W. Lawley, T. G. Taylor, L. V. B. Hawkins.

The following resolution was offered by N. A. Hood: Resolved, that this Association is unalterably opposed to the Baptist denomination retaining Dr. Whitsett at the head of the Theological Seminary, in consequence of his expressions in regard to our Baptist history. Resolution adopted.

The following resolution was offered and adopted: Resolved, that the thanks of this Association be and are hereby tendered to the brethren and sisters of Ashville church and the citizens of Ashville and surrounding community for their hospitality during its session in their midst.

The following resolution, offered by J. W. Lawley, was also adopted: Resolved, that the clerk of this Association receive \$8.00 for his services and that he have as many minutes published with the remainder as possible and distribute the same in proportion to the amount of said fund sent up by each church.

A letter of dismission being called for by Hebron church, a motion prevailed to grant the same. A motion to retain the same Executive committee was made and carried. The report of the Executive Committee of last year was amended so as to have the name of Pleasant Ridge inserted in the place of Hebron church and was adopted, as the report of the Executive Committee of this body.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your committee recommend that for the next associational year this body raise for missions, ministerial education and other purposes connected with our work the sum of three hundred dollars, and your committee makes the following apportionment of same to the churches within our bounds, to wit:

Ashville	\$50.00	Mount Pisgah	\$15.00
Bethany	5.00	New Prospect (Jefferson co.) ..	3.00
Bethel	10.00	New Hope "	4.00
Beulah	15.00	New Hope (St. Clair co.)	40.00
Cedar Grove	6.00	New Prospect	10.00
Cane Creek	3.00	Pine Forest	5.00
Coal City	10.00	Pleasant Grove (Shelby co.) ..	5.00
Cooke Springs	10.00	Pleasant Site "	3.00
Cool Springs	10.00	Pleasant Grove (St. Clair co.) ..	3.00
Eden	5.00	Providence	5.00
Friendship (St. Clair co.)	10.00	Rock Springs	5.00
Greensport	5.00	Reeve's Grove	10.00
Gum Springs	20.00	Sand Ridge	2.00
Harmony (St. Clair co.)	3.00	Shiloh	3.00
Pleasant Ridge	5.00	Sulphur Springs (Jefferson co)	5.00
Hopewell (St. Clair co.)	15.00	Trinity (Shelby co.)	3.00
Mount Castle	3.00	Union (St. Clair co.)	2.00
Mount Pleasant	10.00	Union Springs	5.00
New Lebanon	5.00		
Total			\$300.00

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN W. INZER, Chairman.

The committee on Devotions to which the resolutions of Bethany church in reference to the preaching of the funeral of Brother John Bowlin were referred, reported that they had had the same under consideration. They regret their inability to make a favorable report on the same; that while Brother Bowlin was a good and true man, and if such privilege should be accorded to any one, he was entitled to it; yet, in the judgment of the committee, the granting of the request would be unwise and would set a precedent which might probably, in the near future, turn this body into a funeral gathering. Hence the committee report adversely to the request of our brother.

After singing the song "How Firm a Foundation," prayer was offered by J. A. Glenn and the Association adjourned to meet in its next session with New Prospect Church on the East & West R. R., four miles east of Coal City, on Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 1898, at 10 o'clock a. m.

J. S. E. ROBINSON, MODERATOR.

N. A. HOOD, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be known by the name of THE CAHABA VALLEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.
2. It shall be composed of delegates from the different churches in connection with this body.
3. Petitionary churches may be admitted into this body at any regular session, if, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, and their reception shall be manifested by the Moderator's giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.
4. Any church may withdraw from this body at her own discretion, on application for dismissal.
5. This body shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, nor infringe on any of their internal rights, but shall be considered only an advisory council relative to their internal affairs. It, however, may become necessary in some cases to have a uniform rule of proceedings, viz: If one church commits offense against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction. If she fail of success she shall call in the aid of two sister churches to assist in laboring for satisfaction; if satisfaction cannot be thus obtained, it shall be the duty of the aggrieved church to bring the case before the Association, to be decided upon according to its merits. And if a serious difficulty should arise in an individual church, which, upon due labor, she cannot reconcile, she may call in the aid of two or more churches to assist her in the work; then if the difficulty be not removed it may be the duty of the church to bring the case before the Association; but the Association will take cognizance of no case unless due course of procedure has been previously pursued.
6. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of this Association written communications, specifying the names of their messengers, and state of the church since the last session.
7. Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner, viz: A church containing fifty or less members shall be entitled to three representatives and one additional representative for every twenty-five members over fifty. Any church failing to represent herself as above described shall state her reason for such failure at the next annual session.
8. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular

Rule of Decorum, which she is authorized to alter or amend at her discretion.

9. At every annual session of the Association a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer shall be chosen by ballot by and from the members present, and shall hold their offices until their successors are chosen. The Moderator shall preside over the deliberations of the body, preserve order and see that the Rules of Decorum are strictly observed. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a proper record of all transactions of the body. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all moneys from the hands of the Finance Committee and pay them out according to the order of the Association.

10. The Association shall have power to exclude from her union any church which shall violate the Constitution or depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel or knowingly suffer any of her members to do so.

11. The Association shall furnish the churches with the Minutes of each session according to the funds sent up by each church.

12. Every query sent up by a particular church must be in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to reconcile such difficulty, and has failed. In such case the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of a majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be enrolled upon the minutes.

13. Queries that immediately concern the general union of churches, sent up by a particular church or introduced by a proper motion, shall be taken up and decided upon as soon as practicable.

14. There shall be an Association book provided, in which the Minutes of every annual session shall be recorded.

15. The Association shall not adjourn any annual session until she shall have finished all regular business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

16. Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, and if necessary, signed by the Moderator and Clerk before final adjournment.

17. In all cases a majority of the members present of the Association shall rule under the Constitution.

18. Giving or withholding charity from any benevolent object shall not be considered a breach of fellowship by this Association.

19. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any annual session when two-thirds of the members present think it necessary.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. The Moderator shall be deemed a judge of order, and shall have a right to call to order at any time. It shall be his duty also to see that the Rules of Decorum are strictly observed, to take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before the body; and any member not satisfied with his decision on any point of order may appeal to the Association on the day of the decision, and at no other time.

3. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a record of the transactions of the Association.

4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and disburse all monies belonging to the Association according to its directions.

5. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator, using the appellation of "brother" in all discussions.

6. The Moderator, when addressed for leave of speech, shall signify the same by naming the brother, or otherwise.

7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject or use words of personal reflection, except it be to obtain order for a particular purpose.

8. Any motion made and seconded shall come under consideration, except withdrawn by him who made it.

9. The Moderator after allowing time for debate, shall take the voice of the Association on questions that have been brought before it; and, if need be, by a rising vote.

10. When any question has been brought before the body, it must first be disposed of before any other question can be taken up.

11. No member shall depart during the service of the Association without leave.

12. The roll may be called as often as may be expedient.

13. No person shall be indulged in any practice that may cause interruption, or dishonor the Association.

14. The Moderator shall be allowed the privilege of debate, provided he appoint some other member to fill his seat while speaking; but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided, and then he shall give the casting vote.

15. No member of this body shall be permitted to speak more than twice on the same subject, unless to explain, without first obtaining leave from the Association.

16. Any member violating these rules shall be called to order by the Moderator, or removed at the discretion of the Association, but only on the day the breach is made.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Call for petitionary letters.
2. Receiving and returning correspondence.
3. Appoint committees to report during present session.
4. Report of standing committees.
5. 9 a. m. Sunday. Report of committee of Sabbath schools.
6. 11 a. m. Missionary sermon.
7. 2 p. m. All reports on missions be read and jointly discussed.
8. Monday, 9 a. m. Report on education read and discussed.
9. 11 a. m. Report on temperance.
10. 1:30 p. m. Religion and its wants.
11. 2 p. m. Documents.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

N. A. Hood, J. A. Glenn, S. J. Hare, J. S. E. Robinson, J. E. Stevenson, Ashville, Ala.

A. P. Cobb, Hood, Ala.

J. C. Harris, Moody, Ala.

J. W. Lawley, Branchville, Ala.

J. C. Bice, John Perry, Beaver Valley, Ala.

James Bowlen, Cotaige Hill, Ala.

Paul Castleberry, C. J. Pike, R. C. Chaney, Easonville, Ala.

W. P. Lovell, Cook Springs, Ala.

W. C. McLaughlin, Leeds, Ala.

J. A. Owen, J. O. Layton, Ragland, Ala.

G. W. Lovell, Steels Depot, Ala.

W. I. Brasher, Vandiver, Ala.

J. J. Churchwell, Argo, Ala.

B. F. White, Trussville, Ala.

F. F. Green, Murele, Ala.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF CAHABA VALLEY ASSOCIATION, FOR
YEAR 1897.

CHURCHES.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Missions in general	Ministerial Education	Orphan's home.	Minutes.
1 Ashville.....				\$23 87	\$10 00		\$2 50
2 Bethany				25			50
3 Bethel				5 00		\$1 50	1 50
4 Beulah		\$25		5 50			1 20
5 Cedar Grove							
6 Coal City				4 18			1 00
7 Cool Springs				3 66			1 00
8 Cane Creek				1 75			50
9 Cook Springs				11 33			1 50
10 Eden.....	\$ 65	60	\$ 65				50
11 Greensport				5 00			70
12 Gum Springs				2 57			1 30
13 Hopewell				1 00			1 00
14 Hebron				2 75			75
15 Mt. Pisgah		25	7 25				2 00
16 Mt. Pleasant				2 87			1 00
17 New Hope (Jefferson)	4 00						70
18 New Hope (St. Clair)				16 06			2 00
19 New Prospect							1 00
20 New Lebanon						28	50
21 Pine Forest							50
22 Pleasant Grove (Shelby)							1 40
23 Pleasant Grove (St. Clair)				2 40			1 00
24 Pleasant Ridge		25					25
25 Pleasant Site							
26 Providence							1 00
27 Rock Springs							50
28 Reeve's Grove				7 65			90
29 Shiloh							50
30 Sand Ridge		25					50
31 Sulphur Springs						1 00	76
32 Friendship							1 25
33 Mt. Castle							
34 Union							50
35 Union Springs				\$5 00			75
36 Collections at Associations,				24 34	7 00		
Total	\$4 65	\$1 60	\$ 7 90	125 18	\$17 00	\$2 78	\$30 96

STATISTICS OF CAHABA VALLEY ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POST OFFICE.	last Membership Reported.	Increase by			Decrease by			Present Membership.	S. Officers and Teachers.	S. S. Pupils	SUPERINTEND- ENT.	SUP'T P. O. ADDRESS.	Preaching Sab'ths. Reports Prayer Meeting.	Reports Revival.
						Baptism.	Letter.	Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Death.							
1 Ashville	St. Clair	J A Glenn	E B Moore	Ashville	145	11	8	1	5			160	6	40	E B Moore	Ashville	2	Yes
2 Bethany	"	N A Hood	H W McBrayer	Cottage Hill	43				3			40	3	46	J A Machen	Cottage Hill	4	
3 Bethel	"	J S E Robinson	J F Wyatt	Taylorsburg	75	5	11	2	3	2	2	86					3	
4 Beulah	Shelby	J W Lawley	W H Falkner	Sterrett	100	4	4	1	3			106					4	Yes
5 Cane Creek	St. Clair	J O Loughton	J M Moore	Cooke Springs	41		1		1		1	40						Yes
6 Cedar Grove	"				47							49						
7 Coal City	"	J A Glenn	J W Moore	Coal City	49	1	5		3			52	6	35	A R Wyatt	Coal City	3	Yes
8 Cook Springs	"	W P Lovell	J R Carraker	Cooke Springs	83	2	15	2	5	1		86	5	45				Yes
9 Cool Springs	"	N A Hood	L D Galbreath	Caldwell	112	2	1	3	13		1	104					1	Yes
10 Eden	Jefferson	B F White	J M McCombs	Henry Ellen	34	1	10		2	3		40					2	Yes
11 Friendship	St. Clair	J S E Robinson	J L Mize	Beaver Valley	156	6	5		14		2	151					4	Yes
12 Gum Springs	"	J S E Robinson	J W Waldrip	Hood	164	5				1		167			Has S. S.		2	Yes
13 Greensport	"	N A Hood	A C O'Donnell	Partlow	54	5	1		5			55					2	Yes
14 Harmony	"																	
15 Hopewell	"	J E Stevenson	E S Stewart	Ashville	98	3	11		10		2	100					3	
16 Mt. Castle	"	Jas Bowlin	J M Bice	Fairview	34							34						
17 Mt. Pisgah	"	W P Lovell	J L Ragland	Kelley's Creek	180	9	1	1	9	1	3	178					2	
18 Mt. Pleasant	"	W P Lovell	J A Masters	Eden	98	1	2		1		2	98			Has S. S.		3	
19 New Hope	Jefferson	F F Greene	S S Hale	Irondale	40	8	5	1	3			59					1	Yes
20 New Hope	St. Clair	J A Glenn	J M Garrett	Eden	134	3	3		6		2	132	8	75	H B Guy	Eden	1	Yes
21 New Lebanon	"	J W Lawley	J F Allison	Springville	49		4		2	11		40						
22 New Prospect	Jefferson				74							74						
23 New Prospect	St. Clair	J S E Robinson	S R Smith	Fairview	25	23	4	1	4			49					1	Yes
24 Pleasant Grove	Shelby	W I Brasher	J L Vandiver		45	17	12		2			72					3	Yes
25 Pleasant Grove	St. Clair	C J Pike	W S Stine	Riverside	21	22	10		3			50					2	Yes
26 Pleasant Ridge	Shelby	J T Davis	S J Davis		8							10					1	
27 Pleasant Site	"				46							46						
28 Providence	St. Clair	J E Stevenson	J T Newburn	Ragland	49	7	9		1			64					4	Yes
29 Reeve's Grove	"	N A Hood	J C Sheffield	Whitney	88	14	6		1	2		105			J C Sheffield	Whitney	3	Yes
30 Rock Springs	"	W T Churchwel	G T Allison	Moody	22	8	8	1	2			37					2	Yes
31 Sand Ridge	Shelby	W I Brasher	C T Isbell		24	7	6	4	4	3		34						Yes
32 Shiloh	St. Clair	Jas Bowlin	T J Johnson	Pine Forest	30				3		2	31					1	
33 Sulphur Springs	Jefferson	J C Harris	T J Bradford	Moody	83	1	2		5		1	80						
34 Trinity	"				39							20						
35 Union	St. Clair	J W Perry	W B McCrory	Beaver Valley	39	2	5		1	1		20			J W Perry		3	
36 Union Springs	"	J W Lawley	R F Courson	Branchville	69				3	2		64			T D Courson		1	Yes
37 Hebron	Jefferson	W Y Browning	J A McDaniel	Bridgeton	51	2	1		1	8		57						
38 Pine Forest	St. Clair	G W Lovell	J M McCrory	Pine Forest	44				2	1	1	46						
Total					2139	179	146	17	120	36	19	2480	28	241				

245-8 171 146 17 120 36 19 2480 28 241
245-9 337 120 2621





